U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
73544 Hwy 64
Meeker, CO 81641

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-110-2005-070 -EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional): COC59395
COC59697
COC60831
COC59696

PROJECT NAME: Application Permit to Drill (APD) for 5 new wells

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T. 1N, R. 98W, sec 25, 27, 29
T. 1N, R. 97W, sec. 30, 31

APPLICANT: BEPCO Operating Company

ISSUES AND CONCERNS (optional): None

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Proposed Action: Applicant is proposing to construct 5 new wells. No pipeline route has been submitted at this time. Plans for improvement and/or maintenance of existing roads are to maintain in as good or better conditions than present. Ruts will be smoothed; drainage crossings will be reworked as necessary. The proposed wells are as follows:

Yellow Creek Federal #25-1, the proposed access disturbance will be 40' X 35' (.03 acres) and the well pad will disturb 356' X 158' (1.29 acres). Total disturbed surface would be 1.32 acres.

Yellow Creek Federal #27-1, the proposed access disturbance will be 700' X 35' (.56 acres) and the well pad will disturb 385' X 250' (2.21 acres). Total disturbed surface would be 2.77 acres.

Yellow Creek Federal #29-1, the proposed access disturbance will be 1603' X 35' (1.29 acres) and the well pad will disturb 389' X 250' (2.23 acres). Total disturbed surface would be 3.52 acres.

Yellow Creek Federal #30-1, the proposed access disturbance will be 1741' X 35' (1.4 acres) and the well pad will disturb 385' X 159' (1.41 acres). Total disturbed surface would be 2.81 acres.

Yellow Creek Federal #31-1, the proposed access will follow the pipeline disturbance to the location and the well pad will disturb 385' X 250' (2.21 acres). Total disturbed surface would be 2.21 acres.

Total disturbance for this project will be12.63 acres. Well pads disturbance 9.35 acres, access roads 3.28 acres. The White River Resource Area Manager will be notified 24 hours prior to commencing construction of the drill site and reclamation work.

Cleared trees removed from the access road will be cut up and placed along the new road ditches. No flat blading will be allowed. Borrow ditches to be backsloped to no greater than 2:1. Cleared trees from the well pads will be stockpiled and used for reclamation. Root balls, if any, will be returned to reclaimed areas following revegetation

For the access road, if the well is a producer, then culverts or gravel bottom low water crossings, if necessary, will be placed on channel bottoms, on firm uniform beds which have been shaped to accept them, and aligned parallel to the channel to minimize erosion. Backfill will be thoroughly compacted. If production is established, BLM and BEPCO will meet at the site to determine permanent culvert and/or low water crossing design.

All construction and drilling activities shall cease when soils or road surfaces become saturated to a depth of three inches, unless otherwise approved by the Authorized Officer. There shall be no mud blading on the access road. Vehicles may be towed through the mud provided they stay on the roadway.

Site preparation for production will be done with standard excavation equipment using native materials. Additional surface material will be obtained from a commercial source or an approved borrow area. For this project, no additional surfacing material will be required.

Production equipment will be painted light reflective colors to limit evaporation and waste of hydrocarbons. All above ground permanent structures including production equipment will be painted to blend with the surrounding landscape. The color specified is given with the Standard Environmental Colors-Juniper Green.

During drilling, all pits will be fenced to BLM fence specifications on all sides. Pits which contain oil will be netted. A dike shall be constructed around any tank batteries, of sufficient capacity to contain at least 110% of the storage capacity of the largest tank within the dike. Drill cuttings will be buried in the reserve pit when dry. Drilling fluid will be evaporated then buried in the reserve pit when dry. Produced fluid will be contained in test tanks during completion and testing. Reserve pits will be lined with a synthetic liner 12 mil or thicker. The reserve pit liner shall be made of any manmade synthetic material of sufficient size and qualities to sustain a

hydraulic conductivity no greater than 1 X 10^{-7} cm/sec after installation and which is sufficiently reinforced to withstand normal wear and tear associated with the installation and pit use.

The well pad will be shaped to avoid major drainages and a diversion ditch will be built around the sides of the well pad where necessary. Topsoil will be removed prior to location construction from all disturbed areas. Backfilling, leveling and contouring are planned as soon as all pits have dried. Waste and spoils materials will be buried immediately after drilling is completed. If production is established, the unused area including cut and fill slopes will be reclaimed as soon as possible. Revegetation will be accomplished by planting mixed grasses as per formula by BLM in the Conditions of Approval (COAs). The seedbed will be disked or ripped following the natural contour. Drill seed on contour at a depth no greater than ½ inch. In areas that cannot be drilled, broadcast at double the seeding rate and harrow seed into soil. Certified seed shall be used. The fill material will be pushed into the cuts and up over the backslope. Leave no depressions that will trap water or form ponds. Perennial vegetation must be established or additional work will be required in case of seeding failures etc. Annual or noxious weeds shall be controlled on all disturbed areas as directed by the White River Resource Area Field Manager. Method of control shall be by an approved mechanical method or an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered herbicide.

For all well pads and access routes: 1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator will immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

If any fossils are discovered during construction, the operator shall cease construction immediately and notify the AO so as to determine the significance of the discovery.

No Action Alternative: In the no-action alternative the wells would not be permitted; there would be no new disturbance.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD: none

NEED FOR THE ACTION: To respond to the request by applicant to exercise lease rights and develop hydrocarbon reserves.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Pages 2-49 thru 2-52

Decision Language: "To make public lands available for the siting of public and private facilities through the issuance of applicable land use authorizations, in a manner that provides for reasonable protection of other resource values."

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. These standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, plant and animal communities, threatened and endangered species, and water quality. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in an environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements listed below:

CRITICAL ELEMENTS

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: The project area is within a Class II Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) air quality area. No Class I PSD areas are within 40 miles of the project area. The principal air quality parameter likely to be affected by construction of the pipeline is the inhalable particulate level (PM_{10} - particles ten microns or less in diameter) associated with fugitive dust. Although no monitoring data are available for the survey area, it can be surmised that the air quality is good because the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) estimates the maximum PM_{10} levels (24-hour average) in rural portions of western Colorado to be less than 50 micrograms per cubic meter. This estimate is well below the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for PM_{10} (24-hour average) of 150 $\mu g/m^3$.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The construction of the well pads and access roads would result in short term, local impacts on air quality during and after construction, due to dust being blown into the air. However, airborne particulate matter would not exceed Colorado air quality standards on an hourly or daily basis. Following successful revegetation of the site, airborne particulate matter should return to near pre-construction levels.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: Permitting of all regulated air pollution sources through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), Air Pollution Control Division, will assure compliance with all federal and state standards.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The proposed well pads and access routes have been inventoried at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level (Shields 2004, Compliance Dated 7/21/2004) with no new cultural resources identified in the inventoried area. In addition Yellow creek Fed. 31-1 well pad and access had a compliance inventory dated 8/31/2004 with no new cultural resources identified in the inventoried area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: For Yellow Creek Fed. 25-1 well pad, Yellow Creek Fed. 27-1 well pad and access, Yellow Creek Fed. 29-1 well pad and access, Yellow Creek Fed. 30-1 well pad and access, Yellow Creek Fed. 31-1 well pad and access: There would be no new impacts to cultural resources under the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts to cultural resources under the No Acton Alternative.

Mitigation: In addition to mitigation in the proposed action, the following will apply: Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: There are no known noxious weeds at any of the proposed drill sites or access roads. The invasive alien cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) occurs throughout the project area, primarily on areas of unrevegetated earthen disturbance associated with roads.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action will create about 12.6 acres of earthen disturbance, which if it is not revegetated with desirable species and

/or treated with herbicides to eradicate cheatgrass, will be invaded and dominated by cheatgrass, increasing the potential for fire and the consequent further proliferation of cheatgrass. The resulting proliferation of cheatgrass will perpetuate a downward cycle of environmental degradation that will be largely irreversible.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There will be no change from the present situation

Mitigation: Promptly revegetate all disturbed areas not necessary for production with Native Seed mix #3 (see Vegetation). The operator will be required to eradicate all noxious and invasive species which occur on site using materials and methods approved in advance by the Authorized Officer.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: The proposed well locations are located throughout a wide range of habitat types including Wyoming big sagebrush, basin big sagebrush, greasewood, green rabbitbrush, and pinyon-juniper. Ground cover at these sites is comprised mainly of western wheat grass, Indian rice grass, crested wheatgrass and June grass. Species commonly represented in pinyon-juniper and sagebrush habitats include gray flycatcher, black-throated gray warbler, vesper sparrow, and spotted and green-tailed towhees. A number of these shrubland and woodland associates have been identified as having higher conservation interest, but in each case, these populations are stable and well distributed in the Resource Area at appropriate densities in extensive suitable habitats. Sites 25-1 and 27-1 occur in greasewood habitats or areas of lower density shrub cover (respectively) along existing roadways. These habitats likely assume little to no bird nesting activity. Site 29-1 involves approximately ¼ mile of access along an existing road through basin big sage habitat. Again, habitats along existing roadways represent suboptimal habitat for nesting birds. Pinyon-juniper woodlands are located adjacent to site 29-1, however, these stand will remain intact thereby having no impacts on nesting activities. Site 30-1 is located predominately in Wyoming big sage habitat, with immature pinyon-juniper located adjacent to the proposed pad. Access to pad 30-1 bisects immature pinyon-juniper woodlands. Site 31-1, located along an existing pipeline, is comprised almost exclusively of Wyoming big sage.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: It is unlikely that construction of sites 25-1, 27-1 and 31-1 would have any negative impacts on nesting activities. The sites occur along existing roads and in the case of 25-1 and 27-1, in areas of degraded habitats or low shrub densities. These habitats typically support little, if any nesting birds. Based on density calculations for this Resource Area, construction of sites 29-1 and 31-1 may impact up to 12 pair of gray flycatcher, Brewer's sparrow, and black-throated gray warbler, species that are abundant within the Resource Area.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no affect on migratory birds or their habitats under the no action alternative.

Mitigation: It is requested that earthwork associated with sites 29-1 and 30-1 be conducted outside of the breeding season (late-May through mid-July) to avoid any negative impacts on nesting success of migratory birds.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE ANIMAL SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: There are no threatened or endangered animals that inhabit or derive important benefit from these sites. The northern goshawk, a BLM sensitive species, is an uncommon inhabitant of mature pinyon-juniper woodlands in the Resource Area. All mature woodlands within 1000 feet of locations 29-1, 30-1 and 31-1 were examined for evidence of woodland raptor nesting by a BLM biologist in December 2004. No evidence of nesting was observed. No suitable nesting substrate was available for raptors within 1000 feet of sites 25-1 and 27-1.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would have no conceivable influence on special status animals or associated habitat.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: The no action alternative would have no conceivable influence on special status animals or associated habitat.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: The proposed action would have no effective influence on populations or habitat associated with special status species.

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: There are no known hazardous or other solid wastes on the subject lands. No hazardous materials are known to have been used, stored or disposed of at sites included in the project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: No listed or extremely hazardous materials in excess of threshold quantities are proposed for use in this project. While commercial preparations of fuels and lubricants proposed for use may contain some hazardous constituents, they would be stored, used and transported in a manner consistent with applicable laws, and the generation of hazardous wastes would not be anticipated. Solid wastes would be properly disposed of.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No hazardous or other solid wastes would be generated under the no-action alternative.

Mitigation: The applicant shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by the proposed actions.

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: Well #27-1 is located in Pinto Gulch which is tributary to Yellow Creek and the White River. All of the other wells and access roads are in the Yellow Creek drainage, tributary to the White River.

Yellow Creek is listed as the mainstem of Yellow Creek, including all tributaries, from the source to the confluence with the White River – Segment 13b of the White River. Yellow Creek has use designations of aquatic life warm 2, recreation 2, and agriculture. Yellow Creek has temporary modifications for all numeric standards equal to the current conditions with a modification expiration date of February 2009. White River Segment 13b has a use-protected designation of no change in numeric standards, based on their present classification. Existing standards are recommended because this segment has only a minimal number of standards (WQCC, 2004a).

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The primary potential water quality impact would be from additional sediment resulting from the proposed construction. Removal of vegetative cover results in the potential for increased soil erosion near newly disturbed areas. Runoff-produced from storm events could increase sediment loads in ephemeral channels. Depending on the soils affected, salt content in the sediment may also degrade water quality.

The magnitude of these impacts is dependent on the amount of surface disturbance and climatic conditions during the time the soils are exposed to the elements. Impacts would continue until mitigation has been implemented and proven to be successful. Such mitigation would include revegetating the pipeline route as soon as possible, placing gravel on areas that would not be revegetated, or placing check dams to control runoff.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: Oil and gas operations are considered to be a light industrial activity by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. As an industrial discharger, the applicant is required to obtain permits authorizing the discharge of stormwater from these sites. The permit requires development of a stormwater management plan showing how Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be used to control runoff and sediment transport. Submit the stormwater management plan to BLM showing how BMPs will be utilized to prevent stormwater erosion.

When preparing the site, all suitable topsoil should be stripped from the surface of the location and stockpiled for reclamation once the pipeline is completed.

All sediment control structures or disposal pits will be designed to contain a 100-year, 6-hour storm event. Storage volumes within these structures will have a design life of 25 years.

All activity shall cease when soils or road surfaces become saturated to a depth of three inches unless otherwise approved by the Authorized Officer.

Vegetation or artificial stabilization of cut and fill slopes shall be provided for in the design process. Establishment of vegetation where it inhibits drainage from the road surface or where it restricts safety or maintenance shall be avoided.

Eliminate undesirable berms that retard normal surface runoff.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: Water quality in the stream segments within the project area meets the criteria established in the standard. With successful reclamation, the proposed and potential actions in the project area would not change this status.

WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN ZONES (includes a finding on Standard 2)

Affected Environment: There are no riparian or wetland communities directly involved or potentially affected by the proposed action. The closest riparian area is in the Yellow Creek drainage about 1 mile downstream from well Yellow Creek Federal #25-1.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would have no conceivable influence on riparian or wetland communities.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: The no-action alternative would not have any conceivable influence on riparian or wetland communities.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems: This project would have no conceivable potential for influencing riparian attributes addressed in the Standards.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:

No ACEC's, flood plains, prime and unique farmlands, or Wild and Scenic Rivers, threatened, endangered or sensitive plants exist within the area affected by the proposed action. For threatened, endangered and sensitive plant species Public Land Health Standard is not applicable since neither the proposed nor the no action alternative would have any influence on populations of, or habitats potentially occupied by, special status plants. There are also no Native American religious or environmental justice concerns associated with the proposed action.

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

The following elements **must** be addressed due to the involvement of Standards for Public Land Health:

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: The soil types in the project area occur from 5,100 to 5,800 feet in elevation. The average annual precipitation in the project area is 10 to 12 inches, the average annual temperature is 42 to 45 degrees F, and the average frost-free period is approximately 80 to 105 days. The proposed action construction would occur within four soil-mapping units inventoried by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Soil units, names, and characteristics are listed in the following table (NRCS, 2004):

Proposed Well #	Soil Number	Soil Name	Slope	Ecological site	Salinity	Run Off	Erosion Potential	Bedrock
31-1	33	Forelle loam	3-8%	Rolling Loam	<2	Medium	Moderate	>60
25-1	36	Glendive fine sandy loam		Foothills Swale	2-4	Slow	Slight	>60
27-1	73	Rentsac channery loam	5-50%	Pinyon-Juniper woodlands	<2	Rapid	Moderate to very high	10-20
29-1 30-1	104	Yamac Loam	2-15%	Rolling Loam	<2	Medium	Slight to moderate	>60

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Short-term impacts would be expected from any surface disturbing activity. Impacts from the proposed action would be loss of the protective vegetation cover, possible increase in salt and sedimentation during storm events and soil compaction from equipment. These impacts could continue until successful re-vegetation has occurred. Establishment of perennial vegetation as soon as conditions are allowable would be favorable in controlling erosion problems that may occur.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: In the no-action alternative, neither the surface disturbance nor impacts to soils resources would occur.

Mitigation: If it becomes apparent that salts leaching from soils are becoming a problem on the surface (i.e. large salt deposits begin to appear), the operator will notify BLM. BLM will then coordinate with the operator to implement best management practices to mitigate the problem.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: The proposed action will have no effect on the soils' ability to meet the land health standard.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: Vegetation at the proposed drill sites is as follows:

25-1: This site is at the mouth of an unnamed drainage immediately east of Yellow Creek that burned in 1998. It has a sparse stand of greasewood and low rabbitbrush with an understory of pubescent wheatgrass, crested wheatgrass and Indian ricegrass. About half of the proposed location was successfully drill seeded after the burn. The ecological site is Foothill swale/Stony foothills.

30-1: This site is dominated by scattered basin big sagebrush with an understory of winterfat, western wheatgrass and Indian ricegrass. This rolling loam ecological site is in stage one of Utah juniper invasion. The 3/8 mile access road to the location is entirely in Pinyon-juniper woodland.

31-1: This site is at existing chained pinyon juniper woodland and is dominated by bluebunch wheatgrass, Indian ricegrass, Wyoming big sagebrush and mountain mahogany. The ecological site is Pinyon Juniper woodland/rolling loam.

27-1: This site and access road is in a PJ chaining that was burned in 2000 for hazardous fuel reduction. Vegetation is dominated by Indian ricegrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, western wheatgrass and scatter mountain mahogany and bitterbrush. The ecological site is Pinyon-juniper woodland/rolling loam.

29-1: This site is in an unnamed tributary at the head of Pinto Gulch. The access road traverses Pinyon-juniper woodland and basin big sagebrush. The well location is primarily in a mid seral stand of basin big sagebrush with an understory of winterfat, Indian ricegrass and western wheatgrass. The ecological site is rolling loam.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The primary impact of the proposed action upon vegetation will be from physical destruction of vegetation on about 12.6 acres. If operations occur from May through November, truck traffic on access roads will create a large amount of airborne dust which will be deposited on vegetation adjacent to roads. These deposits will impair plant function and also limit/prevent use of the vegetation by native and domestic herbivores.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There will be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: Promptly revegetate all disturbed areas with Native Seed Mix # 3: Seed mixture rates are Pure Live Seed (PLS) pounds per acre.

3	Western wheatgrass (Rosanna) Bluebunch wheatgrass (Secar, Whitmar) Thickspike wheatgrass (Critana) Indian ricegrass (Rimrock) Fourwing saltbush (Wytana) Utah sweetvetch	2 2 2 1 1 1	Gravelly 10"-14", Pinyon/Juniper Woodland, Stony Foothills, 147 (Mountain Mahogany)

If construction/development occurs between April 15 and November 15, the operator will be required to water or surface access roads to reduce airborne dust and damage to roadside vegetation communities.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial)*:* Vegetation in the project area currently meets the Standard on a watershed basis and is expected to continue to meet the Standard in the future following implementation of the proposed action.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: There are no aquatic habitats directly involved or potentially affected by the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would have no conceivable influence on aquatic wildlife or habitats.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: The no-action alternative would not have any conceivable influence on aquatic wildlife or habitats.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): This project would have no conceivable potential for influencing aquatic wildlife or habitats addressed in the Standards.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: Sites 25-1, 30-1, and 31-1 are located within mule deer severe winter range, which is typically used heavily by deer during the late winter months. One of the most important functions of these ranges is fulfilled during the early spring periods (late March through early May) when big game are most vulnerable to the influences of poor nutrition and extraneous energy demands (e.g., winter season recovery, last stages of gestation). Ground surveys in mature woodlands within 1000 feet of locations 29-1, 30-1 and 31-1 were examined for evidence of woodland raptor nesting by a BLM biologist in December 2004. No evidence of nesting was observed. There was no suitable nesting substrate available for raptors within 1000 feet of sites 25-1 and 27-1.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Big game impacts associated with road density and use (i.e., behavioral avoidance and habitat disuse; increased energetic demands) received prominent address in the White River ROD/RMP. Vegetation clearing and leveling tends to receive and promote further recreational vehicle use unless physical deterrents are employed. BLM's objective in controlling the proliferation of unauthorized roads and trails on big game ranges (within context of the White River ROD/RMP) is to stabilize existing road

density. By implementing suggested mitigation (i.e., effective vehicle deterrents and rehabilitation) on newly constructed or redeveloped access and pads, the proposed action would yield no net increase in road density on Piceance Basin's winter range extent. The benefits associated with stabilized road density would include maintaining current levels of chronic road density-related influences (i.e., avoidance and disuse of adjacent forage and cover resources) on local big game winter ranges and aiding successful establishment of reclamation plantings. As mentioned above, one of the primary functions of these late winter ranges for big game is nutritional recovery after the winter season. It is recommended that BEPCO establish and maintain a lockable gate to effectively deter general public vehicular access at sites 29-1 and 31-1. This action would comply with the White River ROD/RMP to stabilize existing road densities in big game winter range.

The prevailing 2004/2005 winter weather conditions have been marked by unseasonably mild temperatures, including diminished snow pack and early emergence of herbaceous forage. Deer appear to be in remarkably good condition for this time of year. It is recommended that no condition of approval be applied to this action as the as these conditions meet the exception criteria for the WRFO severe winter range timing limitation stipulation. By implementing reclamation measures recommended in the mitigation section, short and long term habitat integrity, particularly for big game, would remain essentially unaffected.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Failing to develop these wells would maintain the current condition and functional qualities of the project area.

Mitigation: All sites: Design production facilities in a manner that maximizes the extent of pad that can be reclaimed after drilling and completion operations.

Establish and maintain a lockable gate where the access leaves the two track and begins new construction to effectively deter general public vehicular access (authorized use is that associated with construction, maintenance, or production of gas facilities) to the 29-1 and 31-1 location. (See Figure 1; attached) These gates should remain locked throughout the year.

Site 27-1: To better consolidate sources of disturbance on big game winter ranges, this location was moved approximately 1200 m south towards the existing road during a December 2004 onsite. This move effectively located drilling-related activities within the existing disturbance corridor of the county road.

Site 30-1: Access road will avoid small old growth stand near beginning of road.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): The project site meets the land health standard for animal communities. Construction of these well sites, as proposed, would have no functional influence on attributes of community health.

OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: For the following elements, only those brought forward for analysis will be addressed further.

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Access and Transportation			X
Cadastral Survey	X		
Fire Management			X
Forest Management			X
Geology and Minerals			X
Hydrology/Water Rights	X		
Law Enforcement		X	
Noise		X	
Paleontology			X
Rangeland Management			X
Realty Authorizations			X
Recreation			X
Socio-Economics		X	
Visual Resources			X
Wild Horses			X

ACCESS AND TRANSPORTATION

Affected Environment: BLM roads 1128 and 1142 as well as Rio Blanco County roads 83,122 and 20 will be affected.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: An increase in road traffic can be expected while pads are under construction. Post-completion traffic will lessen but while continue. Road surface damage due to heavy vehicle traffic may occur. No new access for public use will be created.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None.

Mitigation: On well 31-1, as discussed with the operator, the access to this pad will follow existing pipeline right-of-way analyzed in CO-110-04-179-EA. Access to pad will terminate at 31-1 and will not continue west to Rio Blanco County road 20.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

Affected Environment: The 29-1 and 30-1 well proposed involves approximately 0.63 miles of road construction and about 3.64 acres of drill pad clearing for an approximate total of 6.33 acres of disturbance. Due to the existing tree cover of pinion and juniper, there will be a need for the operator to clear some of these trees. If not adequately treated, these trees will result in elevated hazardous fuels conditions and remain on-site for many years. These accumulations of dead material are very receptive to fire brands and spotting from wind driven fires and can

greatly accelerate the rate of spread of the fire front. The road(s) associated with this project may be used by the general public for a variety of uses, including access for fire wood gathering, hunting and other dispersed recreational activities. Increased public use of an area will nearly always result in an increased potential for man-caused wildland fires.

The National Fire Plan calls for "firefighter and public safety" to be the highest priority for all fire management activities. In the pinion, juniper, and brush types common on the White River Resource Area, roads and other man-made openings are commonly used as fuel breaks or barriers to control the spread of both wildland and prescribed fires. By reducing the activity fuels created from this proposal, future fire management efforts in this area should be safer for those involved and more effective.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: There will be approximately 6.33 acres of road and well pad construction requiring the removal of pinion/juniper fuel type on the 29-1 and 30-1 well locations. If not treated the slash and woody debris will create an elevated hazardous dead fuel loading which could pose significant control problems in the event of a wildfire. Additionally there would be greater threat to public, energy company representatives, and fire suppression personnel. The other locations proposed by this action are not located in or go through significant pinion/juniper and therefore will not create the dead fuel accumulation anticipated by 29-1 and 30-1.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no tree removal or disturbance which would cause significant dead fuel loading.

Mitigation: Several options may be considered for treatment of slash from this project; however trees should not be windrowed. A hydro-ax or other mulching type machine could be used to remove the trees. The machines are capable of shredding trees up to 12" in diameter and 15' tall as well as mowing brush like a conventional brush beater. It generally leaves small branches and pieces of wood from pencil size up to bowling ball size. The mulch is evenly scattered across the surface and the tires or tracks distribute the weight of the equipment. This would effectively breakdown the woody fuel and scatters the debris thereby eliminating any hazardous fuel load adjacent to the new road and well pad.

The other option would be to cut trees and have them removed for firewood, posts, or other products. The branches and tops should be lopped and scattered to a depth of 24 inches or less. If the products are left for collection by the general public, they should be piled along the road side or pad to facilitate removal. For the 29-1 location, which will have a locked gate, those materials should be placed along the BLM road to facilitate removal by the public.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Affected Environment: The only well that would affect pinyon/juniper woodland resources is the 30-1 well. The access road would go through a relatively sparse and young stand composed primarily of Utah Juniper. This stand would provide minor harvestable materials in

the form of juniper firewood and posts. This stand is accessible to the public which allows harvest of materials.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Clearing of the access road for the 30-1 well would remove minor quantities of woodland products. Following reclamation of the well pad and access road, pinyon and juniper are expected to invade the site and develop into a mature community.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: None

GEOLOGY AND MINERALS

Affected Environment: Closest proposed well, 31-1, to American Soda's Federal sodium lease COC-0118328 is located approximately 2 ½ miles north of the lease and is in the area identified in the White River ROD/RMP as available for multi mineral and sodium leasing. The surface geologic formation of the well locations is Uinta and Bass's targeted zone is not disclosed in the APD but is approximately 5,000 feet below the top of the Mesaverde. During drilling potential water, oil shale, sodium, and gas zones will be encountered from surface to the targeted zone. Aquifers that will be encountered during drilling are the Perched in the Uinta, the A-groove, B-groove and the Dissolution Surface in the Green River formation. This area in the Green River formation is known for difficulties in drilling and cementing. Oil shale and sodium resources are also found in the Green River formation.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Drilling and completion of this well may adversely affect the aquifers if there is loss of circulation or problems cementing the casing. However, the approved cementing and completion procedure of the proposed action isolates the formations and will prevent the migration of gas, water, and oil between formations. Development of these wells will deplete the hydrocarbon resources in the targeted formation.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: None

PALEONTOLOGY

Affected Environment: Yellow Creek Fed. 25-1 well pad: The proposed well pad location is in an area mapped as the Uinta Formation (Tweto 1979) which the BLM has classified as a Condition 1 formation meaning it is known to produce scientifically important fossil resources. However, this well pad is located mostly in alluvial bottoms and colluviums which are less likely to contain important fossil resources.

For all others, locations are in an area mapped as the Uinta Formation (Tweto 1979) which the BLM has classified as a Condition 1 formation meaning it is known to produce scientifically important fossil resources.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Yellow Creek Fed. 25-1 well pad, Yellow Creek Fed. 29-1 well pad and access: If it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock to level the pad, especially along the slopes adjacent to the well pad, there is the potential to impact scientifically important fossil resources.

Yellow Creek Fed. 27-1 well pad and access, Yellow Creek Fed. 31-1 well pad and access: If it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock formation to build the road, level the well pad or excavate the reserve/blooie pit there is the potential to impact scientifically important fossil resources.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts to fossil resources under the no Action Alternative.

Mitigation: Yellow Creek Fed. 25-1 well pad: If it becomes necessary to excavate into the bedrock formation to level the pad, including excavation into the slopes adjacent to the pad, a paleontological monitor shall be present during such excavations.

Yellow Creek Fed. 27-1 well pad and access, Yellow Creek Fed. 29-1 well pad and access, Yellow Creek Fed. 31-1 well pad and access, Yellow Creek Fed. 30-1 well pad and access: 1. all exposed rock outcrops in the well pad location and access road route shall be examined for fossil resources by an approved paleontologist with a report detailing the results of the examination and any recommended mitigation, as appropriate, submitted to the BLM prior to the initiation of construction.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Affected Environment: Locations 30-1, 31-1 and 25-1 are within the Lower Yellow Creek pasture of the Square S allotment (06027). This pasture is used primarily in the winter by the Mantle Ranch and Boone Vaughn cattle operations. On the Square S allotment, the Mantle Ranch base herd is 230 cows and the Boone Vaughn base herd is 500 cows. Locations 27-1 and 29-1 are located on Pinto Mesa within the Yellow Creek allotment (06030). Burke Brothers use the Pinto Mesa area in the late spring and winter as part of the annual cattle operation on public lands.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action will result in the long term loss of about 2 AUMs of livestock forage. This loss is insignificant relative to the total grazing preference on each affected allotment. If the integrity of the affected fences is not maintained, intra-allotment livestock trespass could occur. If airborne dust coats vegetation adjacent to roads, the usability of that vegetation for forage will be negatively impacted (*see* Vegetation section).

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There will be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: Install minimum 20 foot width cattleguard with gate next to it to BLM specifications where the access road to location 30-1 crosses the Square S pasture fence in SWNW Sec 29, T 1N R 97W. BLM fence/cattleguard specifications are to be included as part of the APD approval.

REALTY AUTHORIZATIONS

Affected Environment: Access to the general area of the wells will be by Rio Blanco County roads. Access to wells 30-1, 31-1, and 29-1 will require rights-of-way on the off lease portions. Access to wells 25-1 and 27-1 will be entirely on-lease.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Access will be authorized by amendment to existing ROW COC67003 as follows:

Well #	Access from	Of lease access	Legal description
30-1	RBC Rd 83	.13 miles	1N 97W sec 30 SENE
31-1	RBC Rd 83	.30 miles	1N 97W sec 32 NWSW
25-1	RBC Rd 20	on lease	n/a
27-1	RBC Rd 122	on lease	n/a
29-1	RBC Rd 122	.33 miles	1N 98W sec 32 NWNW
TOTAL		.76 miles	

The authorized width will be 30 feet, additional permitted area will be 2.764 acres, and the new total will be 17.224 acres.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: If the APD's are not approved, there would be no need for access and no additional impacts.

Mitigation: As detailed in Surface Use Plan for APD.

RECREATION

Affected Environment: The proposed action occurs within the White River Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). BLM custodially manages the ERMA to provide for unstructured recreation activities such as hunting, dispersed camping, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing and off-highway vehicle use.

The project areas and the surrounding Yellow Creek area has been delineated a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class of Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM). SPM recreation setting is typically characterized by a natural appearing environment with few administrative controls, low interaction between users but evidence of other users may be present. SPM recreation experience is characterized by a high probability of isolation from the sights and sounds of humans that offers an environment that offers challenge and risk.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The public will lose approximately 15 acres of dispersed recreation potential while wells are in operation. The public will most likely not recreate in the vicinity of these facilities and will be dispersed elsewhere. If action coincides with hunting seasons (September through November) it will most likely disrupt the experience sought by those recreationists.

With the introduction of new well pads and roads, an increase of traffic could be expected increasing the likihood of human interactions, the sights and sounds associated with the human environment and a less naturally appearing environment.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No loss of dispersed recreation potential and no impact to hunting recreationists.

Mitigation: None.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The proposed actions would be located in an area with a VRM III classification. The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed actions would be located in an area where the terrain and larger woody vegetation (pinyon/juniper) would provide a natural shield to the view of a casual observer. The roads in the area are unpaved and have a low volume of traffic. By painting all production equipment on wells 25-1, & 27-1 Khaki color as discussed with project lead during on site inspection, and painting production equipment on wells 29-1, 30-1, & 31-1 Juniper Green, as specified in the APD, the level of change to the characteristic landscape would be low, and the objectives of the VRM III classification would be retained.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no additional impacts.

Mitigation: Paint all production facilities on wells 25-1 and 27-1 the color Khaki (16-0726 TPX as derived from PANTONE for Architecture and Interiors Color Guide, 2003), and paint all production facilities for wells 29-1, 30-1, and 31-1 Juniper Green as stated in the APD.

WILD HORSES

Affected Environment: Wells 27-1 and 29-1 are located in the Pinto Mesa vicinity of the Piceance-East Douglas Wild Horse Herd Management Area (HMA). Horses affected by the proposed action are part of the Barcus-Pinto sub-herd. This sub-herd relies on Pinto Mesa/Gulch as a portion of their Barcus-Pinto home range due to the availability of preferred habitat, including stands of mature pinyon/juniper (cover); accessible, open native range (forage); and proximity to dependable water sources. The sub-herd concentrates in Pinto Mesa/Gulch in the fall, winter and spring and expands their range into Barcus Creek during the summer months. Early spring range is critical to wild horses to satisfy increased nutritional needs following the winter months and resulting from heightened physical and biological activity during the spring foaling and breeding seasons.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The direct impact resulting from construction of wells 27-1 and 29-1 would be the loss of 6.29 acres of wild horse habitat.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no effect on wild horses or their habitat under the no action alternative.

Mitigation: It is recommended that the foaling timing limitation LN-3 (Activities can be delayed during a 60 day period within the foaling period recognized as between March 1 and June 15 each year) be waived for this action since the proposed disturbance for both 27-1 and 29-1 is in proximity to existing roads and is located in open big basin sage habitat.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: Cumulative impacts from oil and gas development were analyzed in the White River Resource Area Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS) completed in June 1996. Current development, including the proposed action, has not exceeded the cumulative impacts from the foreseeable development analyzed in the PRMP/FEIS.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED: None

REFERENCES CITED:

Brogan, John M. and Patrick K. O'Brien
2004 Dominion Gas Ventures, LLC: Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the Proposed Yellow Creek Pipeline, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Eagle, Colorado.

Shields, William Lane
2004 A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory Report of Six Proposed Yellow Creek Federal Wells for BEPCO Operating Company, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Eagle, Colorado.

Tweto, Odgen

1979 Geologic Map of Colorado. United States Geologic Survey, Department of the Interior, Reston, Virginia.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility
Caroline Hollowed	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Air Quality
Tamara Meagley	Natural Resource Specialist	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Tamara Meagley	Natural Resource Specialist	Threatened and Endangered Plant Species
Michael Selle	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources Paleontological Resources
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive, Non-Native Species
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Animal Species, Wildlife
Bo Brown	Hazmat Collateral	Wastes, Hazardous or Solid
Caroline Hollowed	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Water Quality, Surface and Ground Hydrology and Water Rights
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wilderness
Caroline Hollowed	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Soils
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Management Specialist	Vegetation
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife Terrestrial and Aquatic
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Access and Transportation
Ken Holsinger	Natural Resource Specialist	Fire Management
Robert Fowler	Forester	Forest Management
Caroline Hollowed	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Geology and Minerals
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Management Specialist	Rangeland Management
Linda Jones	Realty Specialist	Realty Authorizations
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation
Keith Whitaker	Natural Resource Specialist	Visual Resources
Valerie Dobrich	Natural Resource Specialist	Wild Horses

Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record (FONSI/DR)

CO-110-2005-070-EA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)/RATIONALE: The environmental assessment and analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action have been reviewed. The approved mitigation measures (listed below) result in a Finding of No Significant Impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

DECISION/RATIONALE: It is my decision to approve development of the wells as described in the proposed action, with mitigation measures listed below. This development, with mitigation, is consistent with the decisions in the White River ROD/RMP, and environmental impacts will be minimal.

MITIGATION MEASURES:

1. Permitting of all regulated air pollution sources through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), Air Pollution Control Division, will assure compliance with all federal and state standards.

2. In addition to mitigation in the proposed action, the following will apply: Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

3. The operator will be required to eradicate all noxious and invasive species which occur on site using materials and methods approved in advance by the Authorized Officer.

4. Earthwork associated with sites 29-1 and 30-1 will be conducted outside of the breeding season (late-May through mid-July) to avoid any negative impacts on nesting success of migratory birds.

5. The applicant shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by the proposed actions.

6. Oil and gas operations are considered to be a light industrial activity by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. As an industrial discharger, the applicant is

required to obtain permits authorizing the discharge of stormwater from these sites. The permit requires development of a stormwater management plan showing how Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be used to control runoff and sediment transport. Submit the stormwater management plan to BLM showing how BMPs will be utilized to prevent stormwater erosion.

7. When preparing the site, all suitable topsoil should be stripped from the surface of the location and stockpiled for reclamation once the pipeline is completed.

8. All sediment control structures or disposal pits will be designed to contain a 100-year, 6-hour storm event. Storage volumes within these structures will have a design life of 25 years.

9. All activity shall cease when soils or road surfaces become saturated to a depth of three inches unless otherwise approved by the Authorized Officer.

10. Vegetation or artificial stabilization of cut and fill slopes shall be provided for in the design process. Establishment of vegetation where it inhibits drainage from the road surface or where it restricts safety or maintenance shall be avoided.

11. Eliminate undesirable berms that retard normal surface runoff.

12. If it becomes apparent that salts leaching from soils are becoming a problem on the surface (i.e. large salt deposits begin to appear), the operator will notify BLM. BLM will then coordinate with the operator to implement best management practices to mitigate the problem.

13. Promptly revegetate all disturbed areas with Native Seed Mix # 3: Seed mixture rates are Pure Live Seed (PLS) pounds per acre.

3	Western wheatgrass (Rosanna) Bluebunch wheatgrass (Secar, Whitmar) Thickspike wheatgrass (Critana) Indian ricegrass (Rimrock) Fourwing saltbush (Wytana) Utah sweetvetch	2 2 2 1 1 1	Gravelly 10"-14", Pinyon/Juniper Woodland, Stony Foothills, 147 (Mountain Mahogany)

14. All sites: Design production facilities in a manner that maximizes the extent of pad that can be reclaimed after drilling and completion operations.

15. Establish and maintain a lockable gate where the access leaves the two track and begins new construction to effectively deter general public vehicular access (authorized use is that associated with construction, maintenance, or production of gas facilities) to the 29-1 and 31-1 location. (See Figure 1; attached) These gates should remain locked throughout the year.

16. Site 30-1: Access road will avoid small old growth stand near beginning of road.

17. On well 31-1, as discussed with the operator, the access to this pad will follow existing pipeline right-of-way analyzed in CO-110-04-179-EA. Access to pad will terminate at 31-1 and will not continue west to Rio Blanco County road 20.

18. Several options may be considered for treatment of slash from this project; however trees shall not be windrowed. A hydro-ax or other mulching type machine could be used to remove the trees. The machines are capable of shredding trees up to 12" in diameter and 15' tall as well as mowing brush like a conventional brush beater. It generally leaves small branches and pieces of wood from pencil size up to bowling ball size. The mulch is evenly scattered across the surface and the tires or tracks distribute the weight of the equipment. This would effectively breakdown the woody fuel and scatters the debris thereby eliminating any hazardous fuel load adjacent to the new road and well pad.

19. The other option would be to cut trees and have them removed for firewood, posts, or other products. The branches and tops should be lopped and scattered to a depth of 24 inches or less. If the products are left for collection by the general public, they should be piled along the roadside or pad to facilitate removal. For the 29-1 location, which will have a locked gate, those materials should be placed along the BLM road to facilitate removal by the public.

20. Yellow Creek Fed. 25-1 well pad: If it becomes necessary to excavate into the bedrock formation to level the pad, including excavation into the slopes adjacent to the pad, a paleontological monitor shall be present during such excavations.

21. Yellow Creek Fed. 27-1 well pad and access, Yellow Creek Fed. 29-1 well pad and access, Yellow Creek Fed. 31-1 well pad and access, Yellow Creek Fed. 30-1 well pad and access: 1. all exposed rock outcrops in the well pad location and access road route shall be examined for fossil resources by an approved paleontologist with a report detailing the results of the examination and any recommended mitigation, as appropriate, submitted to the BLM prior to the initiation of construction.

22. Install minimum 20 foot width cattleguard with gate next to it to BLM specifications where the access road to location 30-1 crosses the Square S pasture fence in SWNW Sec 29, T 1N R 97W. BLM fence/cattleguard specifications included as part of the APD approval.

23. If construction/development occurs between April 15 and November 15, the operator will be required to water or surface access roads to reduce airborne dust and damage to roadside vegetation communities.

24. Paint all production facilities on wells 25-1 and 27-1 the color Khaki (16-0726 TPX as derived from PANTONE for Architecture and Interiors Color Guide, 2003), and paint all production facilities for wells 29-1, 30-1, and 31-1 Juniper Green as stated in the APD.

25. It is recommended that the foaling timing limitation LN-3 (Activities can be delayed during a 60 day period within the foaling period recognized as between March 1 and June 15 each

year) be waived for this action since the proposed disturbance for both 27-1 and 29-1 is in proximity to existing roads and is located in open big basin sage habitat.

NAME OF PREPARER: Tamara Meagley 3-10-05

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Caroline Hollowed

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: Acting Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

ATTACHMENTS: Figure 1; Location of Gates
Location map of the proposed action

CO-110-2005-070-EA 25

CO-110-05-070

Location of Locked Gates

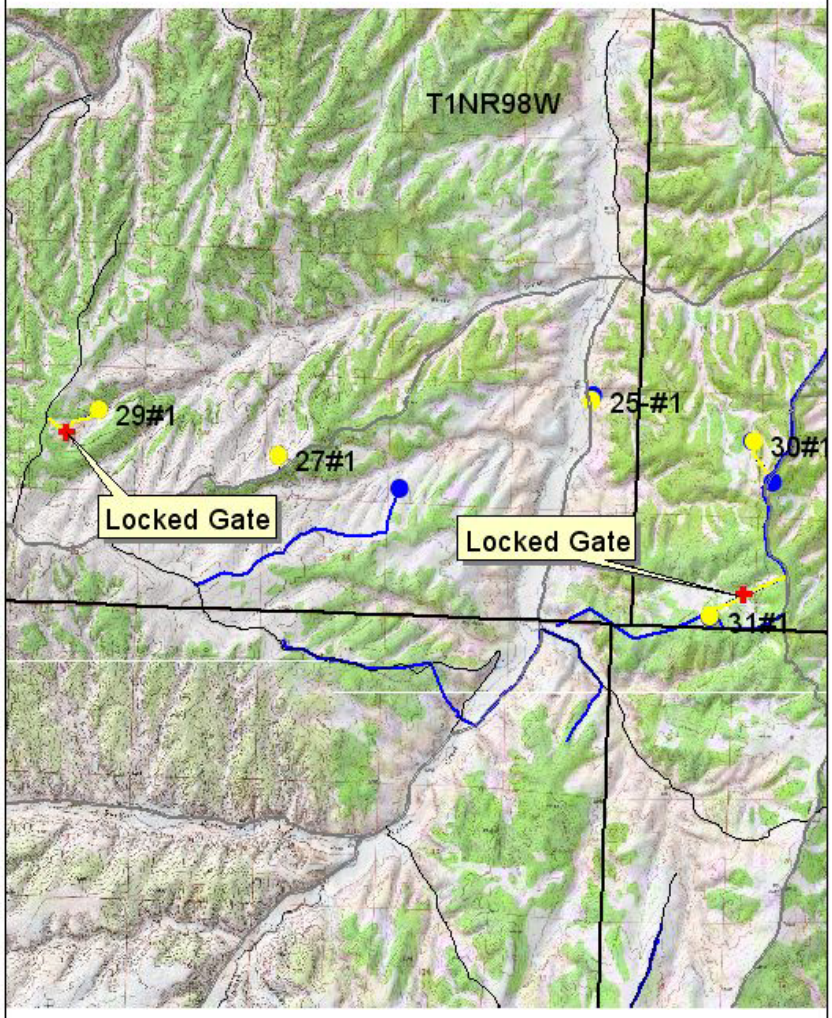

Figure 1

Bureau of Land Management

Map compiled on March 10, 2005

Disclaimer:

The BLM does not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, or timeliness of the information shown and shall not be liable for any loss or injury resulting from reliance upon the information shown.

0.5 0 0.5 Miles

1:77515

Location of Proposed Action
CO-110-2004-070-EA